

**PORTAGE COUNTY**  
**Patty Dreier**



**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE**  
**County Executive**

October 18, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

On behalf of the residents and businesses of Portage County, Wisconsin, I am asking you to approve the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. I am prompted to write you because I am not sure you truly understand how important improved broadband access is to the rural counties of Wisconsin.

Portage County represents the heart of Wisconsin, where we have a mix of urban and rural communities. While there are many advantages to living and doing business in our area of the state, one of our biggest frustrations is inconsistent access to broadband and high-quality cellular service.

With an approved AT&T/T-Mobile merger, not only would our county realize increased access to broadband and cellular service, but the improved service would be deployed in an expedient manner. This merger would expand AT&T's 4G wireless coverage to more than 97 percent of Americans; including new areas in Portage County that currently struggle with connectivity.

The unique compatibility of AT&T's and T-Mobile's existing networks and spectrum locations would guarantee a quicker expansion of state-of-the-art wireless service than if left to other providers. This means that Portage County would be able to experience the benefits of advanced telecommunications technology far more quickly. The private investment promised by AT&T to deploy its wireless network would be an additional benefit of this merger in our fiscally challenging time.

I encourage your approval of AT&T and T-Mobile's combination. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patty Dreier".

Patty Dreier

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn